Department of Toxic Substances Control

Preventing environmental damage from hazardous waste, and restoring contaminated sites for all Californians.

State of California

California Environmental Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, October 2007

Update: Recent Environmental Investigation Findings for 28th Street Elementary School

Investigations continue at the 28th Street Elementary School. Results from sampling in July and August showed elevated levels of tetrachloroethene (PCE) in soil vapors below the paved playground area and bungalows (see map on page 3). Air samples collected inside classrooms and under bungalows adjacent to the playground indicated the presence of PCE at various levels.

Actions in Response to Sampling Results

PCE has continued to be detected at slightly elevated levels in four bungalow classrooms, but was within the normal range in other classrooms, the staff lounge and kitchen, and the outside air. Air sampling in the crawl spaces of seven bungalows and below several concrete slabs also indicated elevated levels of PCE.

PCE is a common industrial solvent that is used to clean machine parts. Although the levels of PCE vary at the school site, **none** of the levels pose an immediate health risk to students and/or staff. The levels, nevertheless, are slightly above the DTSC action levels for long-term protection and have been addressed through what is known as Interim Protective Measures.

DTSC has overseen environmental investigations at the site since early 2006 as requested by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). LAUSD is also working with

This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:

- Actions in Response to Sampling Results
- Site History and Background
- Investigation Findings
- Interim Protective Measures
- DTSC Involvement/ Oversight
- Next Steps
- Who to Contact for Information

COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday October 24, 2007
3 p.m.
28th Street Elementary School Multipurpose Room
2807 Stanford Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90011

You are invited to a community meeting. DTSC will provide the results of the environmental investigation and an update of the Health Risk Assessment. The DTSC encourages you to take an active interest in the issues related to the environmental investigation by attending.

Spanish translation will be provided at the community meeting.

For more information on meeting room accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Cynthia Miller at (818) 551-2846.

the Los Angeles County Public Health Department to evaluate health conditions at 28th Street Elementary

Site History and Background

LAUSD conducted soil vapor and air sampling in January, April, July, and August 2007 in several areas throughout the school site (see map on page 3). These areas included soil vapor sampling beneath the paved playground, on 29th Street and Stanford Street, and air sampling in the crawl spaces beneath all the bungalows adjacent to the playground. Because PCE was detected in the crawl spaces below the bungalows, supplemental screening of indoor classroom air was conducted in July, August, and September 2007. All of the sampling was conducted with DTSC's oversight.

Investigation Findings

During the 2007 sampling, elevated levels of PCE were found in several soil vapor samples below the paved playground area and along 29th Street. In all, a total of 45 samples were collected throughout the site and the highest PCE levels found were along the south and southwestern boundaries of the school site, and on 29th Street directly opposite Palace Plating. In addition, nine soil samples were collected adjacent to the cafeteria and elevated PCE levels were found in the shallow soil. The exact source of the PCE is not known, but may be associated with industrial activities in the area surrounding the school. Exposures to very high concentrations of PCE can cause nervous system effects, such as dizziness, or unconsciousness. Long-term exposures at very high concentrations can cause nerve, liver, and kidney damage, and cancer.

Interim Protective Measures

PCE that gets into the soil evaporates into the air. PCE in an open air environment, such as a playground, does not pose an immediate health risk to children and/or staff because the sunlight breaks it down into other chemicals. As a precautionary measure to protect the health of children and teachers, LAUSD has taken the following protective measures with oversight from DTSC:

- Conducted additional indoor air sampling in classrooms to evaluate conditions during the week of September 17;
- Balanced and cleaned all HVAC (heating/ventilation/air conditioning) units in bungalows to reduce stagnant air and improve air circulation;
- Installed programmable control panels for all HVAC units in bungalows enabling automatic operation for extended periods of time;
- Increased the vent openings in bungalows B1-B2 and B3-B4 and installed fans to increase air circulation in the crawl spaces which will prevent the accumulation of PCE;
- Installed crawl-space fans in bungalows B9-B10, B17-B18, B19-B20, B21-B22, and B13-B14 to increase the air circulation beneath these classrooms.

Additional response measures to be implemented by DTSC include pursuing cleanup measures by potential off-site sources.

DTSC Involvement/Oversight

DTSC is responsible for overseeing school site environmental investigations and ensuring that mitigation and cleanup activities are conducted in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations, however, DTSC involvement with this investigation is voluntary at the request of LAUSD and is not required under the law.

Next Steps

Sampling results and an update on the Health Risk Assessment will be presented at a community meeting on October 24 at 3:00 p.m., at 28th St. Elementary School, Multipurpose Room, 2807 Stanford Avenue, Los Angeles. LAUSD will continue periodic monitoring for PCE levels in the classrooms to ensure the interim measures are being effective. DTSC will continue to evaluate and pursue potential off-site sources of the PCE impacts on the school.

Who to Contact for Information

DTSC Contacts:

Aldo Chaney
DTSC Project Manager
School Property Evaluation and Cleanup Division
(818) 551-2972
achaney@dtsc.ca.gov

Cynthia Miller
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(818) 551-2846 or toll free 866-495-5651, press option '3' at the prompt
cmiller@dtsc.ca.gov

LAUSD Contact:

Prudence Boczarksi-Daniel
LAUSD Project Manager
Office of Environmental Health and Safety
(213) 893-7046
prudence.boczarski@lausd.net

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con el: Sr. Javier Hinojosa al (818) 551-2172.

***Media Inquiries*:**
Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 551-2176
jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD), or by calling Cynthia Miller, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2846.

Meeting Accessibility

For information on accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, please call Cynthia Miller at (818) 551-2846 at least one week in advance of the Community Meeting.

For more information about DTSC, please visit our Web site at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public

Map of 28th Street Elementary School